

# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CITY PARTICIPATES IN INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY CELEBRATION**

*Fun Activities for the Family Promote Migratory Bird Conservation*

INDIANAPOLIS – The Office of Sustainability today along with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Indy Parks, Amos W. Butler Audubon Society, and the Center for Urban Ecology presented the first ever International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) Celebration at Eagle Creek Park. IMBD is an international holiday recognizing native migratory bird species, and the City of Indianapolis along with its partners demonstrated appreciation for our native wildlife with birding activities, education, conservation, and celebration.

A variety of family friendly activities including bird walks around the park were offered to exhibit some of the migratory bird species currently residing in the area. Participants performed owl pellet dissections and witnessed a Birds of Prey presentation from the Eagle Creek Ornithology Center. Children created bird feeders from recycled soda bottles and donated bird seeds and learned from city partners' outreach programs.

"Educating the community and engaging bird enthusiasts around Indianapolis with the IMBD Celebration is a great addition to our outreach efforts," Office of Sustainability Director John Hazlett said. "Events like the IMBD Celebration increase awareness among the broader population, beyond just traditional birders."

This event is one of the planned Urban Bird Treaty projects to enhance the bird habitat in Indianapolis and educate the public on native migratory bird species. The City signed the Urban Conservation Treaty for Migratory Birds earlier in the year and was awarded a challenge grant of \$70,000 to fund this and future projects. The Urban Bird Treaty program, administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, brings together private citizens, as well as federal, state, and municipal agencies and non-governmental organizations, to conserve migratory birds through education programs, participation in citizen science, conservation and habitat improvement strategies, and reduction of hazards to birds in urban/suburban areas.

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